



Connecticut Department of  
**ENERGY &  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Public Hearing – February 24, 2016  
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Robert J. Klee  
Presented By Deputy Commissioner Susan Whalen

**Senate Bill No. 137 (Raised) – AN ACT CONCERNING THE SUSPENSION OF A HUNTING OR FISHING LICENSE FOR FAILURE TO APPEAR, PAY OR PLEA IN A HUNTING OR FISHING VIOLATION CASE.**

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony **regarding Raised Senate Bill No. 137 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE SUSPENSION OF A HUNTING OR FISHING LICENSE FOR FAILURE TO APPEAR, PAY OR PLEA IN A HUNTING OR FISHING VIOLATION CASE.** The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

We appreciate the Committee's willingness to raise this bill at the request of the DEEP. This proposal, which we strongly support, would resolve a conflict that exists for Connecticut residents that fail to comply with wildlife violation citations out of state versus those that fail to comply with wildlife violation citations in state.

A Connecticut resident issued a citation for a wildlife violation in another state must immediately comply with the terms of that citation or have his license suspended in Connecticut until he does so. However, if that same Connecticut resident were issued a citation for a wildlife violation that occurred in Connecticut, and failed to comply with the terms of that citation, his license could not be suspended until final adjudication of the matter by the Judicial Branch.

There are two likely unintended consequences caused by this conflict: (1) By failing to comply with the terms of the citation issued in Connecticut, and avoiding final adjudication by the Judicial Branch (by, for example, failing to appear), the Connecticut resident avoids suspension; and, (2) The consequence of a Connecticut resident for ignoring or otherwise failing to comply with the terms of an out of state citation is immediate suspension until the citation has been resolved, a more swift and severe sanction than that resident would receive for ignoring or otherwise failing to comply with a Connecticut citation.

To resolve this conflict, and to create similar consequences for failure to comply with in state citations and out of state citations, the law should be change to allow for suspension of a Connecticut license to

hunt, fish or trap, or the privilege to obtain such a license in Connecticut, upon failure to comply with the terms of that citation until the citation has been resolved. If the resolution of the citation is conviction or the payment of a fine, an additional suspension may also be issued pursuant to section 26-61(b) of the General Statutes.

In summary, DEEP strongly supports **Senate Bill No. 137 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE SUSPENSION OF A HUNTING OR FISHING LICENSE FOR FAILURE TO APPEAR, PAY OR PLEA IN A HUNTING OR FISHING VIOLATION CASE** and looks forward to taking this step to resolve the conflict between in state and out of state wildlife citations thereby leading to more and equitable application of the state's building and fishing rules.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact Robert LaFrance, DEEP's Director of Governmental Affairs, at 860.424.3401 or [Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov](mailto:Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov) or, Elizabeth McAuliffe, DEEP Legislative Liaison, at 860.424.3458 or [Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov).